

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-26 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claim 28 as follows.

1. - 26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) An image processing method comprising:

an image input step of entering an image including an object to be extracted;

an outline setup step of setting a closed outline in a predetermined shape;

an outline renewal step of renewing said predetermined shape of said closed outline by a predetermined method;

a renewal result display step of displaying the renewed outline by superimposing said renewed outline onto an input image;

an instruction input step of instructing to halt or start the renewal of said outline; and

an outline step of outputting the shape of said renewed outline

28. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 27, wherein said outline renewal step further comprises:

a renewal interval setup step of designating a renewal interval on said outline;

a non-renewal interval setup step of designating a non-renewal interval on said outline; and

[[a]] an outline part renewal step of renewing the shape of said outline at said renewal interval using a predetermined method.